

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1- 49 (Cancelled)

Claim 50 (Previously Presented): A process for modulating an immune response in a mammalian subject comprising administering to said subject an effective amount of a mammalian metabolite so as to modulate or change at least one component in the immune system of said subject, wherein the mammalian metabolite is a glycolipid, and wherein the immune response is part of the pathogenesis of a disease.

Claim 51 (Original): The process of claim 50, wherein said immune system component comprises cellular, humoral or cytokine elements.

Claim 52 (Original): The process of claim 50, wherein said modulation or change is specific or non-specific.

Claim 53-54 (Cancelled)

Claim 55 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 50, wherein said glycolipid comprises a monosaccharide ceramide.

Claim 56 (Currently Amended): The process of claim 55, wherein said monosaccharide ceramide comprises a β -glucosylceramide or β -galactosylceramide.

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Claim 57 (Original): The process of claim 50, wherein said administering step is carried out by means comprising intravenous means, intra-muscular means, subcutaneous means, intra-peritoneal means or oral means.

Claim 58 (Original): The process of claim 50, wherein said disease comprises cancer, an infection or immune dysfunction.

Claim 59 (Original): The process of claim 58, wherein said infection is viral or bacterial.

Claim 60 (Original): The process of claim 59, wherein said viral infection comprises HBV, HCV, or HIV.

Claim 61 (Withdrawn): The process of claim 58, wherein said immune dysfunction comprises diabetes type I, diabetes type II, rheumatoid arthritis, Crohn's disease, arteriosclerosis and ulcerative colitis.

Claim 62 (Previously Presented): The process of claim 50, wherein said mammalian subject is a human.